

LUKE CAGE

WALKER • BLAKE • MENYZ

1972

003
MARVEL

POWER MAN GO HOME



While imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, **Luke Cage** was subjected to medical experiments that gave him superhuman strength and bulletproof skin. Once free, he used his abilities to become a Hero for Hire, protecting people who had nowhere else to turn. His mission has taken him to Wakanda, the Savage Land, even Avengers Mansion, but Luke has never forgotten where he came from.

In New Orleans for the funeral of Dr. Burstein, who gave Luke his powers, Luke met Cyril Morgan, a man whose son's disease had been cured by Burstein. Leaving Morgan's mansion, Luke was attacked by a man with a sword that pierced his skin, then rescued by Burstein's first test subject,

Mitchell Tanner (A.K.A. Warhawk). Warhawk introduced Luke to more recipients of the Burstein Process, all with powers like Luke's plus a side effect: mania that must be suppressed with medication. Meanwhile, Burstein's assistant, Dr. Lenore Mornay, was kidnapped by crime boss Mateo Corello, who wanted her to re-create the medication for his son, another Burstein test subject. But she failed. Frankie Corello killed his father, and Lenore's next if Luke can't save her in time.

David F. Walker
Writer

Nelson Blake II
Artist

Marcio Menyz
Color Artist

VC's Joe Sabino
Letterer

Rahzzah
Cover Artist

Julian Totino Tedesco
Variant Cover Artist

Kathleen Wisneski
Assistant Editor

Jake Thomas
Editor

Axel Alonso
Editor in Chief

Joe Quesada
Chief Creative Officer

Dan Buckley
President

Alan Fine
Executive Producer

© 2017 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM



NEW ORLEANS.
MONTHS AGO.

I GET
CONFUSED
SOMETIMES. I
CAN'T...WHAT'S
THE WORD...
FOCUS.

BUT I GET
ANGRY...THEN I
CAN FOCUS.

NO
CONFUSION.
JUST ANGER.

THAT'S WHEN
I KILL. IT'S THE ONLY
TIME I'M NOT CONFUSED--
THE ONLY TIME I HAVE A
SENSE OF...NOT FOCUS...
WHAT'S THE WORD?

CERTAINTY.

LET ME ASK
YOU SOMETHING,
MITCHELL--

MY NAME IS
WARHAWK.

NO, YOUR
NAME IS MITCHELL
TANNER, AND THAT'S
WHAT I'M CALLING YOU.
NOW, TELL ME...HOW
DOES THE KILLING
MAKE YOU FEEL?

I...DON'T
KNOW.

PART OF ME
DOESN'T WANT
TO DO IT...I THINK.
THE ANGER IS THE
ONLY THING I'M
CERTAIN ABOUT.



PUT THIS
ON AND BREATHE
IN DEEPLY.

YOU'RE HERE
TO GET BETTER,
MITCHELL.

WHY AM I
HERE?

AND THIS
WILL MAKE ME
BETTER?

I WON'T BE AS
CONFUSED?

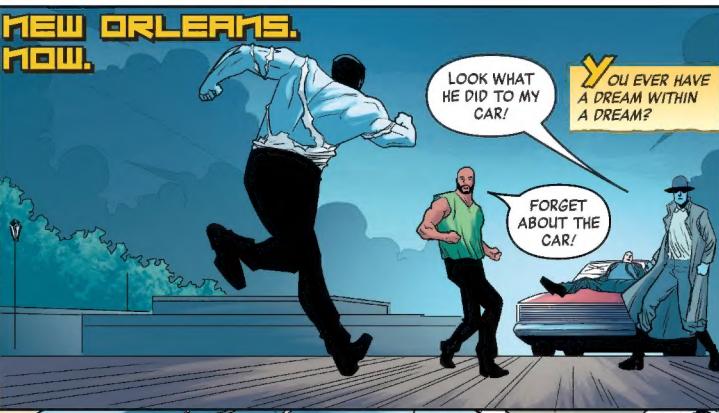
I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT THE
CONFUSION, MITCHELL--
I REALLY DON'T. BUT
THIS WILL HELP WITH
THE ANGER.

I DON'T
KNOW WHY
I'M HERE.
I'M...

...A
VERY BAD
PERSON.











...AND IT'S THE UNDERTOW
THAT DRAGS YOU BACK
OUT TO SEA.

IT'S YOUR
FUNERAL!

SWIMMER

OVER AND OVER
AGAIN--

DAMN!

FORGOT
WHAT THESE
BLADES CAN
DO!

SLASH

HEADS
UP!

IT'S
UNRELENTING.

YOU LOSE ALL SENSE OF
REALITY AS THE WAVES
POUND YOU--YOU CAN'T
SEE OR BREATHE.

YOUR LUNGS
START TO FILL.

I'M ABOUT
TO WRECK WAY
MORE THAN
YOUR CAR?

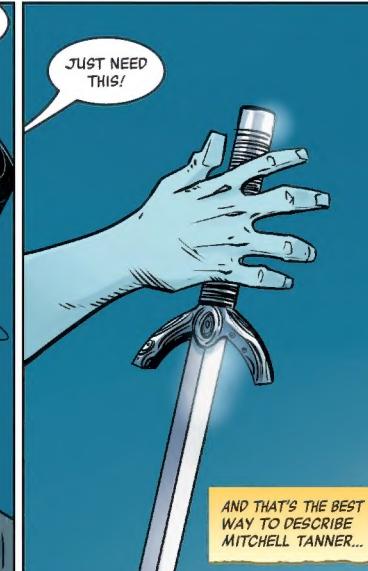
DON'T NEED AN
ARMY!

THE NEXT THING
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE
DROWNING IN
INSANITY.

YOU
AND WHAT
ARMY?

JUST NEED
THIS!

AND THAT'S THE BEST
WAY TO DESCRIBE
MITCHELL TANNER...



...HE'S A MAN DROWNING
IN HIS OWN INSANITY.

ARGH!

Mitchell!

YOU CAN TRY TO THROW
SOMEONE LIKE HIM A
LIFE PRESERVER.



WHAM

BUT WHATEVER YOU DO,
DON'T JUMP INTO THE
INSANITY AND TRY TO
STOP THEM FROM
DROWNING.

OH,
MAN...

...THIS
HURTS.



CAN'T
BELIEVE...

YOU DO THAT, AND
ONLY ONE THING
HAPPENS...



...YOU
WRECKED
MY CAR.

YOU DROWN
WITH THEM.





THE HOME OF CYRIL MORGAN. LATER.

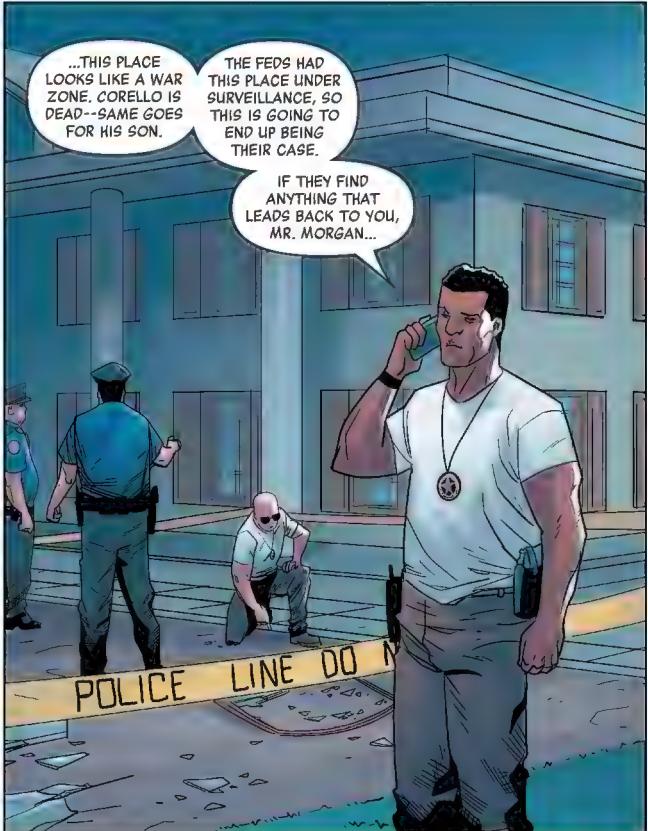
...I APPRECIATE
YOU GIVING ME THE
HEADS-UP ON THIS.
HOW BAD IS THE
SITUATION?

CAN'T
LIE TO
YOU...

...THIS PLACE
LOOKS LIKE A WAR
ZONE. CORELLO IS
DEAD-SAME GOES
FOR HIS SON.

THE FEDS HAD
THIS PLACE UNDER
SURVEILLANCE, SO
THIS IS GOING TO
END UP BEING
THEIR CASE.

IF THEY FIND
ANYTHING THAT
LEADS BACK TO YOU,
MR. MORGAN...





...I'VE
MANAGED TO
CLOSE THE WOUND,
WHICH STOPPED
THE BLEEDING.

I THINK
THE TRANSFUSION
WILL WORK...

DR. BURSTEIN'S OLD LAB.

...HE'S
GOING TO
LIVE.

I SEE.
ONE
QUESTION...

...IS
THAT A GOOD
THING?

'CAUSE, YOU
KNOW, I KEEP
PLAYING IT OVER
IN MY HEAD...AND I'M
HAVING TROUBLE
WITH ALL OF
THIS.

WE JUST
LEFT A MAJOR
CRIME SCENE.

LUKE, WE
HAD NO CHOICE...
WE HAD TO DO
SOMETHING ABOUT
TANNER'S
INJURIES.

I KNOW
WHAT WE HAD
TO DO.

BUT HOW
MANY DEAD
BODIES DID WE
LEAVE BACK
THERE?

I'M NOT A
KILLER, LENORE,
AND I SURE AS HELL
AIN'T AN ACCESSORY
TO MURDER--EXCEPT
NOW I AM.

LUKE...I'M
SORRY...
STOP...





EVER SINCE I CAME TO NEW ORLEANS TO BURY NOAH BURSTEIN, NOTHING HAS MADE SENSE.

PART OF IT... THE THING THAT IS HAPPENING THAT MAKES IT WHAT IT IS.

EVERYTHING IS IT...UHGH...AND EVERYONE IS PART OF EVERYTHING THAT IS IT.

WHY CAN'T I MOVE ANYMORE?

NOTHING AT ALL,

TANNER... EXCUSE ME... WARHAWK, YOU'RE SOUNDING CRAZY.

I AM CRAZY, LITTLE BROTHER. EVERYONE KNOWS...

THAT'S BECAUSE I DIDN'T SEE THE WHOLE PICTURE.

HE'S PASSED OUT.

DAMN, I NEED THE MOLECULAR DESTABILIZING SCALPEL. I KNOW THERE'S ONE AROUND HERE.

CAN'T MAKE SENSE OF THINGS WHEN ALL YOU SEE ARE BITS AND PIECES OF SOMETHING BIGGER...

YOU NEED A WHAT?

...BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT BIGGER THING IS, OR THAT THERE EVEN IS A BIGGER THING.

IT'S A LITTLE GADGET--LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING DR. WHO WOULD USE.

NOAH HAD ONE LYING AROUND HERE--I SAW IT.

AND THEN YOU SEE IT.

YOU MEAN THIS? LOOKS LIKE IT CAN CUT THROUGH ANYTHING?

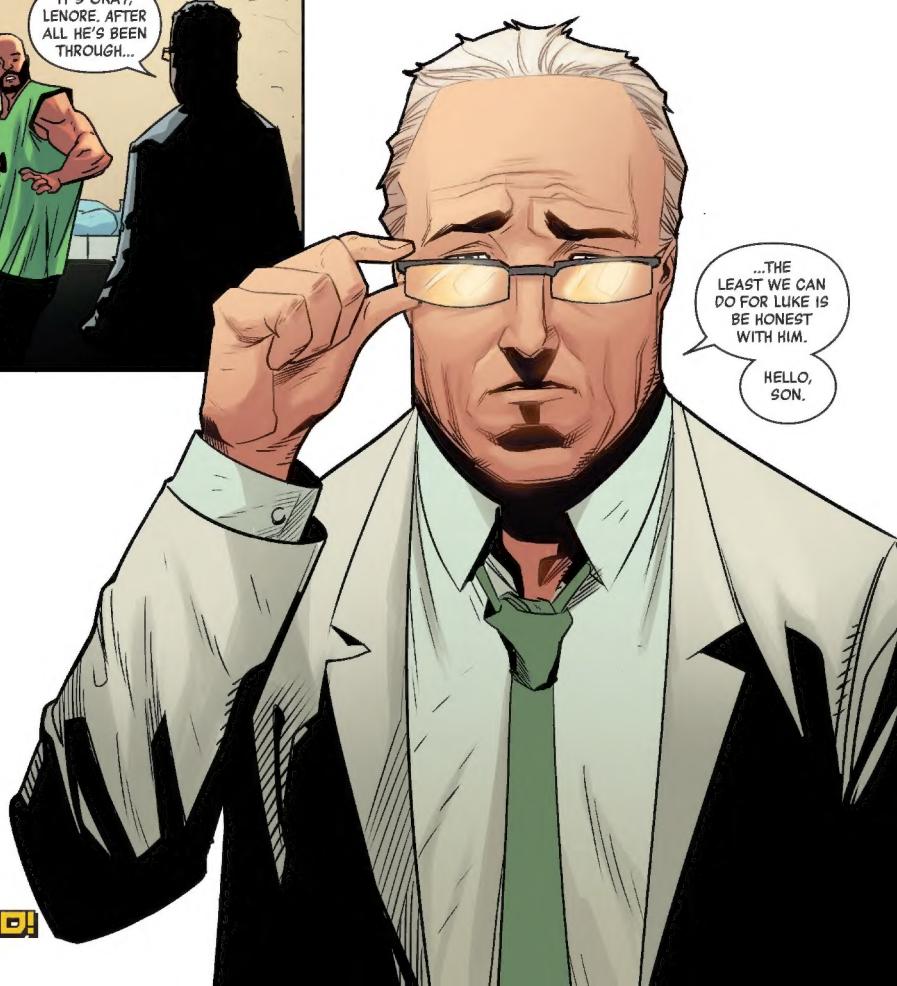
"THE WAY I SEE IT--IF YOU'RE COMING TO ME FOR HELP, THINGS MUST BE REALLY BAD..."











TO BE CONTINUED!

POWER MAIL

Send us your letters at mheroes@marvel.com and mark them "okay to print"!

Burstein?! What are you doing, man? Can't you see you're tearing Luke apart?!? Welcome to Power Mail, Power-Fans. It's summertime in New York: A time when a young assistant editor's fancy turns to thoughts of sending LUKE CAGE #3 to the printer before issue #2 is out, so you readers haven't had a chance to tell us what you think of it. But some of you are still discovering the first issue, and that's fantastic! Welcome! Writer David F. Walker is here to answer your questions!

I missed the boat for POWER MAN AND IRON FIST but I was there for NIGHTHAWK--yes, I bought it--you and Villalobos did great work. When I heard you were going to write a new ongoing solo for Luke Cage I knew it was an instant buy. The first issue was solid, and I wasn't familiar with Nelson Blake before this but now he's on my radar. I'm on for the ride and hyped for what you guys will do.

Edwin M.

Nelson has been cooking up some nice stuff in the kitchen, and it keeps getting better--there is some pretty amazing stuff coming up. And thanks for the kind words about NIGHTHAWK.

How are ya, Power Mail?

After becoming a convert to David F. Walker's writing with POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #1 a little over a year ago, I knew I'd be there to pick up the new Luke Cage solo title the day it hit

the shelves. Walker's writing does not disappoint, and, as we saw in the excellent Luke Cage Netflix TV series, it creates real fear and tension for the reader to see "invulnerable" Luke get hurt by those who can pierce his skin. A few others showing up who seem to possess Luke's powers--all the more scary! The guy calling Luke a "perfect experiment" and a "specimen"--very creepy. And a nice bit of real-world characterization as Luke reflects on the feeling of helping people: "But it never lasts that long."

I assume David F. Walker, as a fan and as a writer, has done his homework, and that Mitchell Tanner is from the 1970s Marvel comics featuring Luke...I'm curious to learn more about him, and to explore this New Orleans mystery further. Great job by the entire creative team!

Loved reading David's essay in the back about how he first became a fan of Luke Cage.

Tony Wolf
Hoboken, NJ

Mitchell Tanner (A.K.A. Warhawk) has a very long history with Luke Cage. I'll be getting into it later in this story. I first saw the character when I was a kid, in an issue of POWER MAN AND IRON FIST, and thought it would be cool to know more about his relationship with Luke.

You had me at David F. Walker. This series was highly anticipated and the first issue absolutely delivers. There's definitely a film noir feel to it, and it's actually pretty funny,

too. Most important thing? I'm excited for the second issue. Definitely going to recommend this to my friends.

Leroy D.

Trying to get a bit of that noir flavor in this story--glad to see it is coming across. Recommendations are always welcome and appreciated, so thank you for spreading the word.

We thank you, and, let's be honest, so will the people who pick up LUKE CAGE based on your recommendation. Friends don't let friends miss LUKE CAGE #4, wherein we learn where Burstein's been, which only kicks up more mysteries, and whereupon you'll find what is one of the best covers of the year. Check it out next month!

See you then!
Kathleen

NEXT

